

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 366

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Jerry Wayne Cooper of Warren County.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jerry Wayne Cooper of Warren County, who served his fellow citizens with distinction as a member of the Tennessee State Senate for the 14th Senate District during the 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, and 105th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, born on August 6, 1948, Jerry Cooper was the son of J.W. and Theonia Ruth LaFevers Cooper and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a proud military veteran, Senator Jerry Cooper served with distinction as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard from 1970 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Senator Cooper was the owner and founder of the Cooper Manufacturing Company in Morrison and a member of the Board of Directors of City Bank & Trust; he was named Tennessee's Small Businessman of the Year in 1983 by the U.S. Small Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, after offering himself for public service, Jerry Cooper was elected to the State Senate in 1984 to serve the 14th Senate District, representing Bledsoe, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Sequatchie, Van Buren, and Warren counties; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the State Capitol, Senator Cooper rendered sterling service as Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee of the 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, and 104th General Assemblies and as a member of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Transportation Committee, the Senate State and Local Government Committee, and the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Senator Cooper received recognition awards from the Warren County Democratic Party, the Tennessee State Employees Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police Ben Lomand Lodge #34; and

WHEREAS, he was honored as the Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Association for Home Care, the Tennessee Network of Community Organizations, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the Tennessee Development District Association, and the Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cooper was also honored as the Outstanding Senator of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and the County Officials Association, and received the Sierra Club Award, the AARP Tennessee State Legislative Committee Certificate, the Bird Dog Award from the State Governing Board of Common Cause of Tennessee, the Community Service Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association, the AFL-CIO Leadership Award, the Friend of Tennessee Nurserymen and Landscape Association Award, the AARP Tennessee's Legislative Champions Award, and the Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Conservation Legislator of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, named Tennessee Outstanding Young Man by the Jaycees in 1984, Jerry Cooper served as president of the Tennessee Jaycees from 1980 to 1981 and was a founder of Camp Discovery for the Handicapped in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper was a member of Alpha Phi Mu, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, the University of Tennessee Space Institute Support Council, the Tennessee Technology Foundation, and the Motlow College Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper was deeply devoted to his family, and he enjoyed the loving support and companionship of his beloved wife, Lisa Powers Cooper, until her passing; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud father and father-in-law of Elisa and Barry Luna, Sally and Mike Pack, Faith and Chase McGee, and Holly and Ward Bushart; and adoring grandfather of Raylee Pack, Carly Pack, Ty Martin, Owen McGee, and Bree McGee; and

WHEREAS, he will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia C. and Stanley Rogers; his nieces and their spouses, Amy R. and Bill Nickels and Rachel R. and Carter Sain; his nephew and his spouse, Stan and Lee Rogers; and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Cooper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Senator Jerry Wayne Cooper and his life of service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee and reflect fondly upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Senator Cooper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.